Exploitation and atrocities against the child labourers

347. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:
SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Labour Commission has conducted an inspection regarding exploitation and atrocities against the child labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons found guilty along with the action taken against them, State-wise;

(c) whether the children engaged in the agriculture farming sector, book publication sector, automobile industry are employed in more strenuous physical work in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken to free and rehabilitate such children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) At present no Labour Commission exists.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 years in 16 hazardous occupations and 65 processes and regulates the working conditions of children working in non-hazardous occupations and processes. The hazardous occupations and processes include Agriculture processes where tractors, threshing and harvesting machines are used, automobile repairs and working in automobile workshops and garages. Government is implementing the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLPs) in 250 districts of the country. Under the Scheme, children withdrawn from hazardous work are put into Specials Schools, where these children are provided with accelerated bridging education, vocational training, nutrition, stipend and health care facilities etc., before they are mainstreamed into regular education system.

Retrenchment of employees due to economic slowdown

348. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the economic slowdown, a large number of employees from different sectors are feared to be retrenched;

(b) if so, the details thereof, sector-wise;

(c) whether Government has drawn up any road-map to avoid such a scenario;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether large scale retrenchment of employees is likely to lead to unrest in the country; and

(g) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken on war footing to address this serious issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) No exhaustive survey/study has been conducted regarding retrenchment of employees due to economic slowdown. However, a sample study has been conducted by the Labour Bureau, Chandigarh to assess the impact of economic slowdown on employment in various sectors like Mining, Textiles, Metals, Gems and Jewellery, Automobile, Transport and IT/BPO for the period October-December, 2008 in the Country. According to the Study, the total employment in all the sectors covered by the survey went down from 16.2 million during September, 2008 to 15.7 million during December, 2008 resulting in job loss of about half a million persons.

(c) to (g) Government is concerned about the impact of economic slowdown in the country and several measures financial and fiscal have been initiated to spur growth and overcome the crisis. Some of the important steps relate to RBI measures to enhance liquidity in the market and an economic package by the Government of India, mainly comprising additional spending, interest subvention and excise duty cuts. These measures will prevent large scale job losses.

Enlarging the list of hazardous occupations

349. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to add 15 more to the list of hazardous occupations under the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 and if so, the nature of such hazardous occupations;

(b) whether Government also propose to codify the procedure for repatriation of migrant children and their rehabilitation to prevent them from joining the workforce; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir. However, inclusion or deletion of hazardous occupations and processes to and from the schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, is a continuous process.

(b) and (c) The Government has issued a Protocol to the State Governments on the procedure to be followed for repatriation of migrant children and their rehabilitation, which provides practical guidelines to key stakeholders on crucial issues relating to prevention, rescue, repatriation and rehabilitation of trafficked and migrant child labour.